Fort Ramsay Upton-hill. Va:
January the 4th. 1863.

Miss Deborah Weston!

My kind friend,

happy and cheerfuly I sit down now to inform you and Mrs. Weston, of the activity of our last movement against that dashing Foe, which made their appearance at our Picket line here in front of the defense of Washington.

Also to inform you of the Glorious event I had so unexpected happen to me

It was on last Friday afternoon as I was standing in the rear of my tent to wipe my face with a Towel, seeing a fine carriage passing by, a Gentleman looking out the Window, bowing to me friendly with great attention, and Who seems to me, looked like Mr. Weston

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I dit not know, what to make of it, the
Carriage kept rolling on, towards the Head-quarters
I then went in my tent to place my towel away
and to get my Blouse, the same time I heard
the Captain calling me, Hesse put on your
jacket, Halloo, I thougt there was somthing
up about what I saw with the Carriage,

Quickly I ran to the Fort. I could
hear my own heart beating. I found of
course Mr. Weston standing there, and what more
with great surprise seeing Miss Emma and
Miss Anna jumping out the Carriage —
Well, — Well, — I thought all the Angels
were coming down now, I dit not know
what to say first, a delightfull shaking
hands in knowing the true friendship to each-
other, dit we meet here, in this beautiful
State of Virginia, which is for ever and ever
free now; Miss Anna then with her than
charming Voice began, to make her good report
of Weymouth, and that Almira & darling Anne
Mrs. Weston were well, &c. &c.

You know how sweet and lovely She -
talks, so I was surrounded with all their
plesent appearance. They said I looked
Well and healthy, and indeed I found
them the same, especially Mr. Weston, I
never seen him looking so Well before.
They had a converstation with Capt. Pekiche
so that the time past very Quick - Mr.
Weston presented me with about 20 lbs of Cheese
a box Cigars and some Apples what will -
supply me during the Winter here with my
Rations in Comfort; - Well the time came
near and near that we had to part again,
so having had a plesent intercourse for
about two hours, squeezed we Our hands
together to bid us eachother good bye, in
hope that everything will Works right
- On the Carriage went, and departed
with Salutation and Waving
Handkerchiefs -

Well my Dear Friend; I suppose you know the last Sensation news, in relation to Steuart Cavalry-raid here in this Vicinity. It was on Sunday afternoon the 21st of last Month, as a small Squad of Cavalry came through our Camp which reported that they came from Dumfries and had a fight there the day before with the Rebel Cavalry, which surprised them and took about 200 of them Prisoners which belong to the 2d Pensalvania Cavalry which were Stationed there as Pickets. Every body of us was of course Mortified and astonished of this report and eager to meet that dashing Enemy for revenge, at 10½ o Clock the same Evening, an Orderly was heard galloping by here, to the Headquarters who brought the Marching Order for the 3d Brigade commanded by Colt. Gorney acting Brigadier, at twelve o Clock Midnight by a pleasent bright Moonlight, accompanied with the 143d 144th & 127 New York Inf. Cit We leave Upton hill in good Spiritt

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The road on which We had to travel, was on some places very narrow. Leading through the Woods for three Meiles We went on very slowly, sometimes the Drivers lost the road, so that We had to cut the Trees down to get them out again. We arrived at Annandale at four o. Clock in the Morning, where the 1st Vermont Cavalry was Stationed, by them We were informed that at nine o. Clock in the Night, thair Pickets were driving in, that one of thair Horses was killed, and thair best Lieut. missing two Ms. above the Town, and that the Enemy was about 8000 Strong with four Pieces of Artillery. Maj.-Gen. Abercrombie with his Staff and the 4th Brigade under Brig Cowden had arrived by this time, Whereby the Old Gentm immediately prepared for Battle.

The 9th Mass Battery on the left, so posted as to give a Cross fire, to eather Side h the Enemy choosed to make his appearance. the 143rd New-York Infantery was in the rear of us to support the Battery. the 127th & 144 in the Center in line / The second Brigade was on the right, and in the rear as Reserve Consisting of the 40th Mass. Inf. the 141st New-York. ~~the~~ a ~~Connecticut~~ Rhode Island Inf. and a German Battery / —. at day light every thing was ready, and indeed a fine Morning to fight. —. 300 Cavalry men the Scotts nine-hundered, were sent out for Scounting, which reported to us, that no Rebels were in front of us, but that they were beyond Fairfax Court-house in two Brigades all Cavalry 10,000. and four Pieces of Artillery — Well I found out that there was then no chance for me to fight. I took My Tea-bag and made me a cup of hot Tea, whereby I remembery Mrs Weston, the Night was cool, but the Tea mad soon my blood in motion so that I felt Comfortable

We learned also of the inhabitants, that the
Rebels had toren up the track, and destroed
the Tellegraph and a bridge on the Orange=
and Alexander. R. R. also that they had taken
a good many Negros which were employed
in cutting Wood for the R. R. Companye
and that they were marching towards -
Centreville. We remained all day in line
of Battle till in the Evening at Six o.clock
the Order was then giving out to Marche
but We did not know where to. We soon
found out that We were on the same road
which we came the night befor, knowing
also that we were on our return to
Upton hill. We arrived there at 8½ o clock
found our Tents with fire. place & bunks
ready for good Quarters. The other day
we got Marching Order again, but We had
no Provision in advance so we got delaied
and dit not go, and I beleave that We

will remain here now, till the Enemy comes again, because We are here for the Defence of the Capital, Mr. Lincoln can not spare us here ——.

I suppose there was Great rejoicing on the 1st of Jan: in Massachusetts, of the good Proclamation of the President //

We know now for what We are fighting. — Slavery will fall to the Bottom of the Ocean. Liberty will and shall live through all States of America.

O. wont I be proud by the by when all this is done, and I come before you, to say and knowing with truth that I done all what I could, with my Strenght & power, and that I left everything what was Dear Home —— to put that Wicked Rebellion — and Slavery — down for ever. //

My love to Almira & Anna, to Mrs. Weston the Dr. and all the rest Your true friend

J. Hefor Corpl

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